

interactive third communication unit operable from the second gaming location, including a third display visible from the second gaming location, wherein the central authority is arranged to transmit data resulting in display of a message on the third display and wherein the first display displays a message received from the second gaming location.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the message on the third display comprises a message received from the first gaming location.

18. In a gaming system comprising a first gaming location and a second gaming location, apparatus for enabling communication between the first and second gaming locations comprising:

an interactive first communication unit operable from the first gaming location, including a first display visible from the first gaming location and arranged to display a first message;

an interactive second communication unit operable from the second gaming location, including a second display visible from the service station and arranged to display a second message; and

a network arranged transmit data between the first and second gaming locations, whereby the first and second messages are exchanged.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first display comprises touch screen display.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the second display comprises a touch screen display.

21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first gaming location comprises a gaming machine and wherein the first display is coupled to the gaming machine.

22. The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising an alphanumeric keypad operable from the first gaming location wherein the second message comprises data entered by the keypad.

23. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each of the first communication unit and second communication unit displays an image on one of the first display and second display suitable for entry of at least one of numeric data and alphabetic data by touching one of the first display and second display.

24. In a gaming system comprising a service station and at least a first gaming location, a method of

enabling communication with the service station and the first gaming location comprising:

generating messages at the first gaming location and displaying messages visible from the first gaming location interactively;

generating messages at the service station and displaying messages visible from the service station interactively; and

transmitting the generated messages.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein a message generated at the service station comprises a reply to a message generated at the first gaming location.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein a message generated at the first gaming location comprises a reply to a message generated at the service station.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein the first gaming location comprises a touch screen display and wherein said generating messages at the first gaming location comprises touching the display.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein the service station comprises a touch screen display and wherein